

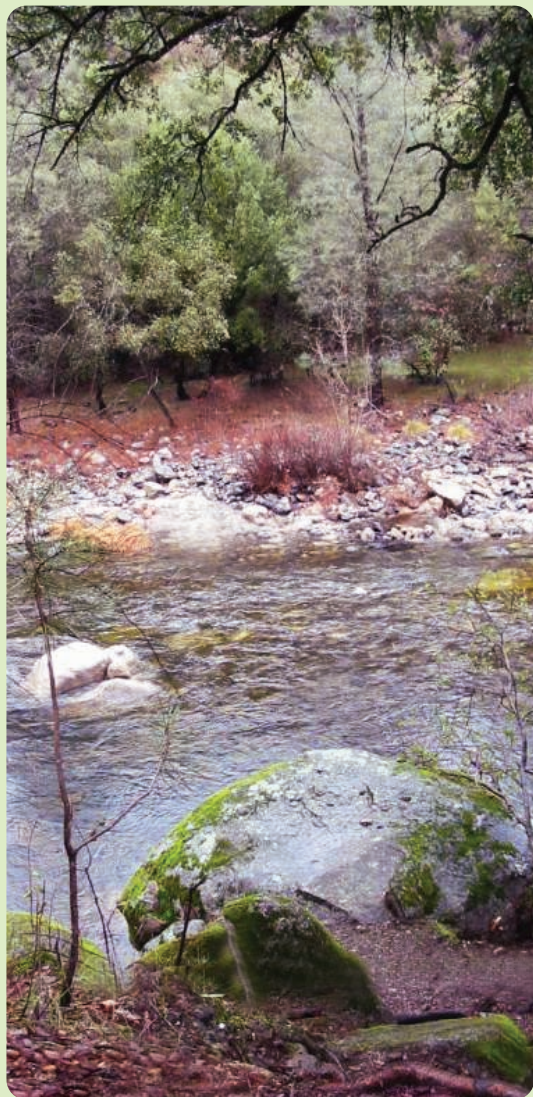


FERGUSON SLIDE

Restoration Project



Wild & Scenic River



What's a Wild & Scenic River?

A Wild & Scenic River is free-flowing, natural and un-modified. Congress designates Wild & Scenic Rivers based on three characterizations: Wild, Scenic or Recreational. Rivers may have different designations in different segments. The character of a Wild & Scenic River is based on its Outstandingly Remarkable Value. Some categories of Outstandingly Remarkable Value include scenic, recreational, geologic, scientific, fish & wildlife, historic, and cultural. The Merced River, South Fork's Outstandingly Remarkable Values are recreational, wildlife, botanical, and historical. It was designated a Wild & Scenic River in 1987.

Who's in charge of the Wild & Scenic River?

The Merced River, South Fork flows through National Forest land within the project limits. The Managing Agency of this Wild & Scenic River is the U.S. Forest Service. However, Caltrans is the lead agency for the restoration project and will produce the Environmental Document in coordination with U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CA Department of Fish and Game, and Federal Highway Administration.

What's a Section 7 Evaluation?

Some project alternatives would require work within the riverbed and below the high water mark of the river. Section 7 of the Wild & Scenic River Act requires evaluation of project alternatives to determine their impact and effect on the river's character, designation and flow. Changes in project design or location may be proposed as a result of the information gathered during the Section 7 Evaluation. Discussion of the Section 7 Evaluation will be a section of the Draft Environmental Document. The anticipated completion date for the Draft Environmental Document is October 2007.